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2
3 MINUTES OF THE MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
4 MEETING HELD MONDAY APRIL 7, 2008
5 IN THE EXTENSION SERVICE BUILDING
6 930 SPRUCE STREET, TRENTON, N.J.
7 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
8

9 I. CALL TO ORDER

10 Vice-Chairman Steve Jany called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
11

12 II. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

13 Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was given to the Trenton Times,
14 Trentonian, Mercer County Clerk, and posted in the Mercer County Administration Building.
15

16 III. ROLL CALL

17 A. Voting Members:

18 Nancy Tindall, Chairwoman – Absent

19 Steve Jany, Vice-Chairman - Present

20 Earl Tindall - Absent

21 Peggy McNeill – Present

22 Charles Appelget – Present

23 Scott Ellis - Present
24

25 B. Non -Voting Members:

26 Bill Agress, County Planning Board – Absent

27 Jhilson Ortiz, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension – Present
28

29 C. Others Present:

30 Dan Pace, MCADB Secretary

31 Leslie Floyd, Assistant County Planning Director

32 Dan Knox, SADC representative

33 Frank D'Amico, Jr., CADB Appointee
34

35 IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

36 Mr. Jany asked for a motion to approve the February 25, 2008 minutes. The motion was made by
37 Ms. McNeill to approve the minutes as submitted, Mr. Ellis seconded, and the minutes were
38 unanimously approved.
39

40 V. PUBLIC COMMENT

41 None
42

43 VI. CORRESPONDENCE

44 A. Acknowledgements received for new and reappointed CADB members from Jerlene Worthy.

45 B. Letters from local governments and CADB's supporting the Department of Agriculture.

46 C. NJTPK unable to attend April meeting but will be able to in May.

47 D. Letter from Robbinsville Twp. to Mr. Pace regarding JEM Stables RTF complaint.
48

49 VII. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

50 A. SADC

51 1. Lyons Farm Ag Labor Request – Staff reported that the Lyons have asked to change their
52 request from a detached single-family home to an apartment above a barn yet to be
53 constructed. Mr. Pace withdrew the SADC request for approval. This revised request will be
54 heard at the CADB's May meeting.

55 2. PIG Process – Staff updated the Board on the status of the farm plan and the potential

1 timeline for initiating individual farm applications.

- 2
3 3. Mr. Knox updated the Board on the status of pending rule changes and discussed the
4 recent actions by the SADC regarding the Den Hollander case in Hunterdon County.

5
6 B. Land Development Activity:
7 None

8
9 C. Status of Farmland Preservation Applications

- 10 • 2001 Round: One farm left; Weidel/Burd. No change in status.
11
12 • 2002 Round – One farm left
13 Zygmunt application still pending for issues involving the Turnpike and the historical
14 significance of the house.
15
16 • 2008 Round – Larry and Michelle Tindall cost-share application and Wash. Twp./Silver
17 Decoy assignment of DOE are being reviewed by the SADC. Updike/Herman Cost-Share
18 Application will be sent to the SADC soon. Herman/Updike has been sold – deed
19 restricted – to Robbinsville Township.
20
21 • 2009 PIG – Board members began discussing Scoring spreadsheets for possible
22 applications for the 2009 County PIG. They include: Gary Mount’s U-pick Farm on Van
23 Kirk Road; Mercer/Verde properties (Heights on Old York Rd. and Briorholm on
24 Sawmill Rd.); Mercer/Sawmill Road Farm; and a potential application in the Diocese of
25 Trenton (Meshechek) and St. John’s church (Batog) that the County has made an
26 acceptable offer for. Mr. Ellis asked if on the Mercer County/Sawmill Road farm, access
27 had been provided to the Crosswicks Creek for irrigation. Staff reported that it had not
28 but will work with Green Acres to provide it.
29

30 VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- 31 A. Farm Monitoring – Staff reported on the monitoring visits made on March 28th to Hamilton
32 and on April 3rd in Robbinsville and East Windsor. In Hamilton, most noteworthy was that
33 TWIN Nurseries is for sale through Stanley Skeba for \$1,000,000. In East Windsor, the
34 monitoring team expressed its concern to the Kyle’s that fields shown on the original survey
35 of the farm appear to be in need of mowing. They indicate that they would be vegetable
36 planting in one field and maintaining nursery stock in the other.
37

38 In Robbinsville, the monitoring team again was concerned – like last year – with the old
39 farm equipment and piles of excess plant material on the Barna farm (operated by the
40 D’Amico’s) and the extra trailer on the D’Amico farm. Staff and Board members were able
41 to discuss this situation with Frank D’Amico, Jr. who was in attendance this evening. Mr.
42 D’Amico assured the Board that not only was most of the equipment in usable condition on
43 the Barna farm, but that the piles of plant debris were being recycled. With regard to the
44 trailers on the farm Mr. D’Amico shares with his father, he explained that the oldest trailer
45 on the farm that is currently being utilized as his business office will continue to be. The
46 second oldest trailer he will attempt to get rid off and the remaining trailer (one of the two
47 newly added trailers that the monitoring team reported last year – the other having been
48 taken off the property) will be used as a sales office for the nursery. Staff and Board
49 members were satisfied with Mr. D’Amico’s explanations.
50

51 Staff reminded the Board that on April 10th, monitoring will take place in West Windsor and
52 Robbinsville Township.
53

- 54
55 B. Cherry Grove Farm, LLC: Municipally Approve Farmland Preservation Program (MAFPP) –

1 Lawrence Township has passed the required ordinance approving the MAFPP and forwarded
2 that to the Board. The Board now needs to pass a resolution adopting the MAFPP and
3 forwarding its resolution together with the landowner's petition and the Township ordinance
4 to the County Planning Board. Pursuant to law, the act of transmittal will cause the MAFPP
5 to take effect. The next step will be for the Board's attorney to draft an agreement for all the
6 parties to execute.

7
8 On a motion by Mr. Appelget and seconded by Ms. McNeill, the Board approved the
9 Resolution (attached) accepting the municipal ordinance and forwarding the same together
10 with the Petition to the County Planning Board.

11
12 Board members unanimously voted to approve the Petition.
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15 IX. NEW BUSINESS

16 A. NJ Department of Agriculture – The Board acted on a resolution supporting the NJDOA
17 because the NJDOA has been proposed for abolishment by the Governor in the 2009
18 State Budget. On a motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Ms. McNeill, the Board
19 unanimously approved the resolution (attached).
20

21 X. OTHER BUSINESS

22 None
23

24 XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

25 None
26

27 XIII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

28 The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM.
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30

31 Respectfully submitted,
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33

34
35 Daniel Pace
36 MCADB, Secretary
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38 Date adopted:
39

40 Attachments and related correspondence, if any, are made a part of the permanent record and are filed
41 with these minutes in the Agricultural Development Board Book located in the Mercer County Planning
42 Division Office. All copies are available upon request.